conditions is one of the serious obstacles to the working of the Transport scheme on a more profitable basis. The use of this oil will go a great way to bring down the cost of propulsion, thereby tending to make the scheme more profitable.

Shark-liver Oil.—The Nutrition Research Laboratories at Coonoor have, after an examination of the samples of the shark-liver oil produced by the Marine Department of the University, certified that the oil produced here is more than three times as effective as the best cod-liver oil available in the market. The oil is being produced and sold on a commercial scale.

These are but a few of the various research activities on which the University is engaged and we can hope that ere long the University will more than justify the object with which it was organised.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

31. Besides the normal expansion of the Department, a scheme for the improvement of paddy in the State financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was started during the current year. Two paddy breeding stations have been opened, one at Monkompu and the other near Adoor, for conducting necessary investigations. The inadequate production of paddy in the State has always been a serious problem to the ryots and to the Government. With a view to investigate the possibilities of increasing the production so as to meet the local demand, a Special Officer has been appointed to consider how far it would be possible to increase the area under paddy cultivation by the pumping of water from the Periyar with the help of electric power from Pallivasal. When the scheme is actually put into operation it is expected that about 25,000 acres of single crop paddy lands in the taluks of Kunnathunad, Muvattupuzha and Parur could be converted into double crop lands and some dry lands converted into wet. Even at a modest estimate it would then be possible to produce an additional quantity of 25 lakhs of paras of paddy. Government have also sanctioned proposals for deepening and renovating the existing tanks, providing new tanks and supplementing the supply of water in the Pachipara Reservoir in order to enhance the output of paddy in Nanjinad.

INDUSTRIES.

32. *Scheme for jaggery refining.*—About 16,000 tons of palmyra jaggery valued at about Rs 13½ lakhs are being produced in the country every year on small cottage industry basis; but the industry is languishing since it is being carried on in the most primitive and antiquated way without taking advantage of modern improved methods. A scheme for the demonstration of the manufacture of refined jaggery and for the training of the persons now engaged in producing crude jaggery is under consideration.

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[Mr. R. Rama Varier.]

Marketing of hand-loom products.—The hand-loom weaving industry is passing through great difficulties, mostly on account of the, disability in marketing the goods. There are also many handicaps under which the weavers suffer on account of lack of financial resources In order to study the conditions of marketing and suggest methods calculated to bring about a more favourable sale of the wares, based on a knowledge of the conditions obtaining both in the industry and in the market, an Officer was appointed, who visited the most important producing and consuming centres, surveyed the possibilities of the industry and of the marketing and submitted a report of his investigations. The report is at present under the consideration of Government. The abnormal rise in the price of yarn consequent on its export from the State through the agency of profiteering middlemen has been found to be one of the most serious obstacles to the development of hand-loom weaving industry in the State. With a view to adopt a scheme of price control based on the prevailing mill rates, Government propose to prevent the export of yarn from the State until the restoration of normal conditions in the local and foreign markets.

Uplift of Backward Communities.

33. In consonance with the policy of Government, an increased provision has been made in the next year's budget for the Uplift of Backward Communities and steps have been taken to carry out more intensive amelioration among the backward classes.

Medical.

34. The terrible effects of tuberculosis on the health of the people have become a matter of very serious concern to the Government. A Tuberculosis Hospital is now under construction and is proposed to be opened in Thulam 1117 with an accommodation, for the present, for 50 patients, at Nagercoil, which has a very salubrious climate specially suited for the treatment of this disease.

Capital Expenditure.

35. I shall now pass on to capital expenditure. A sum of Rs 44·20 lakhs has been included under this head in the budget estimates for the next year. Apart from the necessity for minimising expenditure in general, the anticipations have been pitched a little low because these works are expected to make only slower progress than in previous years on account of the difficulty in getting materials and machinery from abroad. Details of the works will be found explained in the Budget Memorandum. I shall just refer to the salient features of the more important works.

Commercial Transport.

36. The budget provision for this scheme for the next year is Rs 0·92 of a lakh which will raise the total capital outlay thereon to Rs 12·08

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